

VZCZCXYZ0006  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKT #0917/01 2801141  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 071141Z OCT 09  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0865  
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 3268  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 7480  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2816  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5521

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 000917

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/INS, PM/CBM, PM/PRO

STATE FOR SCA/PPD, PA/RRU

E.O. 12958 N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [OPRC](#) [NP](#)

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: Nepal-U.S. relations; U.S.-  
Maoist relations

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NEPAL-U.S. RELATIONS  
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¶1. Nepali journalist Rishi Dhamala wrote an OP-ED in pro-India vernacular daily Annapurna Post (with circulation of 70,000) on October 7, titled "Nepal-America: Incomparable Comparison." The writer built the piece on his recent visit to the U.S. It praised the development and prosperity of America, and called upon the people and leaders of Nepal to learn from the American experience. Translated excerpts:

¶2. "The United States of America is a 'dreamland' for the people around the world. It is a country which is prosperous and where political and economic freedom have flourished. It has a free but disciplined society. Everything runs systematically. People are civilized. Human Rights and Rule of Law is fully ensured. A 'beautiful museum' of people around the world, America has enough prospects for every individual's progress. Labor is highly valued. Capital is highly valued. People have dignity and time is important."

¶3. "...To be like America, Nepal has to do many things. The cultural aspect (in Nepal) is more important than political, economic, and social stability. Nepalis have to eliminate their faults to cultivate the system and culture of American society. To develop a social culture like that of America, Nepal has to change its entire social literature, not only the mathematics. It has to learn the entire school by heart, not a few lessons."

¶4. "...Civil life is easy due to clear policies of the American Government. Law is not arbitrary like in Nepal. Rulers do not have the leverage to take undue advantage of power. Besides being rich and free, the society is also disciplined and defined. Everybody has recognition and dignity based on their work. The law not only provides facilities, but also security for citizens. Nobody can bypass the law. Every individual is aware of his or her dignity that builds on honesty. If you have a small stain on your dignity, it would be difficult to face society. But somebody who errs can easily apologize for their mistakes and gets reestablished in the society, as exemplified by former President Bill Clinton."

5. "I was amazed at the skyscrapers and wide streets

of Chicago. Chicago is the state of American President Barack Obama. His supporters said, "Obama is America's new leader. He is the new hope."

¶16. "... There were no security hassles around the White House, despite of a very strong security arrangement. Anybody with bad intentions cannot enter the vicinity. There was no frisking or interrogation. Technology takes care of the security and it cannot fail. It would be wrong to compare America's security with that of Nepal."

¶17. "... Seeing America, I wondered when Nepal would attain the same level of prosperity and development. Our leaders have travelled the world. But why cannot they bring that culture into Nepal? Why don't we have a leader like in America? We have rich natural resources and culture. Nepal might not be as big as America in geography, but it is beautiful. If the Nepali leaders unite for nation building, then Nepali youths don't have to fill the DV Lottery forms. They can make their own land a dreamland..."

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U.S. - MAOIST RELATIONS  
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¶18. An opinion piece by the same journalist titled "US viewpoint yet to be assured about Maoists" was also published in pro-India English daily The Himalayan Times (with circulation of 40,000) the same day, October 7. The piece began with the recent visit of Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal to the

United States and his meeting with President Barack Obama, and stated that the U.S. is waiting to see the Maoist party in Nepal fully transformed into a democratic force before it could be removed from the "terror watch" list. It also said America has sub-contracted its Nepal policy to India.  
Excerpts:

¶19. "... The meetings between President Obama and PM Nepal were so much so happening for those Nepal and the UCPN-Maoist watchers that they started on what the Maoist leadership was up to, with the underlying meaning being that it would be unfortunate for Nepal and the rebel outfit if it decides not to live up to its public commitment of a hallmark democratic party. ... That President Obama time and again wanted to know whether the ruling parties were in a position to work together with the UCPN-Maoist emphatically suggests that the US is in favor of the parties taking the UCPN-Maoist along without any exception."

¶10. "... the US administration does not want to see political parties in Nepal, and that of course includes the UCPN-Maoist, to smack of Mao and all that which is identified with him and his political ideology.

¶11. "It was interesting to note that the Maoist outfit figured in talks in the US capital and the White House. Equally interesting was the series of meetings between Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. They met as often as PM Nepal and President Obama met."

¶12. "... one thing which should not go missing on Nepal-US relationship analysis is that the US should be expected to take the Indian word on events in Nepal. Said conversely, the Obama administration will be taking cue from the Indian policy towards Nepal whenever it comes to forge any policy in the future. ... the U.S. has in a way sub-contracted the task of forging policy for countries like Nepal and Bhutan to India. This is likely to continue in the

decades ahead ..."

¶13. "That is to say the UCPN-Maoist will need to review its policy vis--vis India ... So, the key for the UCPN-Maoist to the US heart passes through New Delhi."

¶14. "Yet, another reason why the US is concerned about Nepal, the UCPN-Maoist and the peace process is its geographical proximity to China through times when the western world is doing all it can to foster unrest in Tibet, and thus weaken China as part of the longstanding strategy to score over that country."

¶15. "In a way, Nepal is a pawn which must be kept clean and within reach. Another reason why the US is worried over Nepal and its peace process is the involvement of the UN which is another face of the US."

MOON